

Last issue The Voice asked "How do you identify yourself Black, African American or other?" One lucky student published here is the winner of the essay contest and \$75

# Me, Myself and I

by Arabhis Nicholson

I see my life as a never-ending journey, and in this time, I'm meant to create who I am through a series of prophetic experiences. Now, I've come into a brand-new chapter of my youth, and college has been very significant in my personal self-development. I had an epiphany when I entered school that didn't resonate until I fully understood my purpose in life, which is to play a major role in changing the world around me. In addition, I decided that I would redefine myself apart from society's narrow standards. Beyond the formulaic archetype of society, I consider myself to be a highly melinated being of the indigenous ancestral body of the world, and I am blessed to have hair of 9Ether, which curls towards the sun and the heavens. From a broader point of view, I am artistically, spiritually, and intellectually multi-faceted, and there are various ways in which I exemplify these qualities.

Subconsciously, groupthink has never been a part of my personality, and through my

artwork, I've learned to express myself in the most free and unique way. That is to say, I'm striving to be my most genuine self, and allow only divine truth to shape my daily thoughts and ideas creatively.

On the intellectual front, I have studied many great authors such as Lorraine Hansberry, Langston Hughes, Henry David Thoreau, and Zora Neale Hurston, just to name a few. I revel in their tones and methods of story-telling; it shifts my view of life and where I stand in the world by allowing me to see societies various idealisms and patterns. Thus, it elevates my mind. In addition to my love for reading, I also enjoy writing. I find myself imagining stories of great significance and depth, all in my head. Intellectually, I identify myself as cultured and deeply complex due to the fact that my poems reflect my innermost thoughts while at the same time, examines the world that transcends my own lenses.

So, in essence, I identify with every single person on the planet. I am not only black, with a few drops

of native-American blood; I am also a descendent of Caribbean culture, African culture, middle-eastern culture, and yes Eurocentric culture as well.

I take pleasure in exploring many realms of culture and spirituality. At my core I have an Afrocentric drum putting my heart in motion, and in the background Eurocentric melodies move my spirit to sing. Currently, I'm developing a passion for Northern African culture, and a taste for Middle-eastern style and belief systems. Mesh all of these ideas and creative thoughts together, and you still only have a small idea of my full personality, which is infinite. Nevertheless, the people close to my heart know me as an energetic person, who has flaws like every human being. I sincerely strive to be my higher self, and I know my life's purpose, which is to be a prolific writer and teacher. Overall, the point I want to make is that we are all one people, and no race or label is more superior to the other. I am proud and blessed to be black, but I can identify with any and every race on mother earth